

IN THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

- (a) a deadbolt;
- (b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
- (c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
 - (i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and
 - (ii) a shaft housing including an opening for receiving said shaft and a collar surrounding at least a portion of said opening;

wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage one or more portions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

24. (Previously presented) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 23 further comprising an indication mechanism located on said shaft, wherein said indication mechanism indicates whether or not said head portion is nested within said collar.

25. (Previously presented) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

a deadbolt;

at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, wherein at least one of said deadbolt manipulation mechanisms is a knob and at least one of said deadbolt manipulation mechanisms includes a locking mechanism;

a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft comprising an indication mechanism and a head portion including a set of depressions; and

a shaft housing including an opening for receiving said shaft and a collar, said collar including a set of protuberances;

whereby said set of depressions and said set of protuberances can be selectively placed in an interlocking relationship to prevent operation of said deadbolt and said indication

mechanism provides visual indication as to whether or not said set of depressions and said set of protuberances are in interlocking relationship.

26. (New) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

- (a) a deadbolt;
- (b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
- (c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
 - (i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and
 - (ii) a collar including at least one protrusion, said collar being disposed around the shaft;

wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage one or more protrusions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft and can be moved such that the head portion is disposed completely outside collar, thereby allowing rotation of the shaft.

27. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the collar is formed integrally with a door mounting plate.

28. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the head portion is disposed completely within an axial extent of the collar when the head portion is nested within the collar.

29. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the at least one protrusion is integrally formed with the collar and extends radially inward.

30. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the at least one protrusion has a substantially constant cross-section in a direction of an axis of the collar.

31. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the at least one protrusion is integrally formed with the collar and extends along an entire thickness of the collar.

32. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 26 wherein the one or more depressions extend along an entire thickness of the head portion of the shaft.

33. (New) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

(a) a deadbolt;
(b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
(c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
(i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and
(ii) a collar including at least one protrusion that is formed integrally with the collar and extends radially inward from an inner circumferential surface of the collar, said collar being disposed around the shaft;
wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage said one or more integrally formed protrusions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

34. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 33 wherein the collar is formed integrally with a door mounting plate.

35. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 33 wherein the at least one protrusion has a substantially constant cross-section in a direction of an axis of the collar.

36. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 33 wherein the at least one protrusion extends along an entire thickness of the collar.

37. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 33 wherein the one or more depressions extend along an entire thickness of the head portion of the shaft.

38. (New) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:
(a) a deadbolt;
(b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
(c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
(i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and
(ii) a collar including at least one protrusion that is formed integrally with the collar and has a substantially constant cross-section in a direction of an axis of the collar, said collar being disposed around the shaft;

wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage said one or more integrally formed protrusions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

39. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 38 wherein the collar is formed integrally with a door mounting plate.

40. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 38 wherein the at least one protrusion extends along an entire thickness of the collar.

41. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 38 wherein the one or more depressions extend along an entire thickness of the head portion of the shaft.

42. (New) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

- (a) a deadbolt;
- (b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
- (c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
 - (i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions; and
 - (ii) a collar including at least one protrusion that is formed integrally with the collar and extends along an entire thickness of the collar, said collar being disposed around the shaft;

wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage said one or more integrally formed protrusions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

44. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 43 wherein the collar is formed integrally with a door mounting plate.

45. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 43 wherein the one or more depressions extend along an entire thickness of the head portion of the shaft.

46. (New) A deadbolt mechanism comprising:

- (a) a deadbolt;
- (b) at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms; and
- (c) a lockout mechanism comprising:
 - (i) a shaft connecting said at least two deadbolt manipulation mechanisms, said shaft including a head portion including one or more depressions wherein the one or more depressions that extend along an entire thickness of the head portion; and
 - (ii) a collar including at least one protrusion, said collar being disposed around the shaft; wherein said head portion of said shaft can be selectively moved into and out of nesting engagement with said collar such that when head portion is nested within said collar, said one or more depressions engage said one or more protrusions of said collar, thereby preventing rotation of said shaft.

47. (New) The deadbolt mechanism of claim 46 wherein the collar is formed integrally with a door mounting plate.